Most of the flood cases reported was due to streams infill, a situation worsened by the problem of limited or blocked drainage for proper channeling of the water.

Other issues from the problem of flood are the issue of facility loss and damage in the case of Anambra State property worth million of naira went down the drain while over 500 families were displaced.

The damage of agricultural lands and the destruction of crops by flood is also of importance. The impact of this on food security and the security of the human person is enormous.

The issue of building collapse is closely linked to flood in places like Edo state. The impact of such occurrences and the resultant instability put a lot of strain on communities and families that serves as host to the displaced people.

The contribution of flood to ecological damage has being brought to the fore also. The issue of water pollution and pollution of the underground water is an emerging conflict and health risk which the Federal and State Governments have given little or no attention to. Closely linked to this is the issue of low underground water recharge.

The risk of outbreak of disease and epidemic is an offshoot of the contaminations caused by the flood.

The Early Warning Bulletin is a monthly publication of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria that presents a brief graphic analysis and description of highest proximate conditions emerging from its Early Warning Reports.

These Reports are derived from the Network’s online EW system which facilitates the generation of data from monitors and reporters across the 36 States of the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

The Bulletin reflects data from the incidence and situation reports of the EW system.

The WANEP-Nigeria EW system is adopted and supports the ECOWAS EW system-ECOWARN. The system is managed by the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS in partnership with WANEP through an MOU under the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security in West Africa.

This publication is published with support from Oxfam Novib Netherlands.

The manifestation of increase in the damage caused by extreme weather conditions like windstorm and rainstorms is a major characteristic feature of climate change in Nigeria. A condition that is prevalent at the onset and end of each raining season.

The sparse Sudan and Sahel savannah vegetation with little frictional force results in the high wind velocity experienced in the northern Nigeria. The proximate cause of the damage experienced can be attributed to the population and housing density, the poor building design, position of the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) and urban forestry.
Risk 1: Windstorm:

Poorly constructed houses in the rural northern region constitute the major cause of wind damage to houses that region. Many of the houses are built with mud with round structures and conical or flat roof that offer little resistance during situations of windstorm.

During the time under review about 50,000 persons were displaced by windstorm incidents in Borno state and about 1,000 respectively in Kano and Zamfara states. The response from the State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA in Borno, Kano and Zamfara were inadequate to address the displacements. The lack of requisite skills by the communities to respond to threats early enough through preventive or preparatory mechanisms also came to the fore.

Risk 2: Armed Conflict:

Five states reported incidences of armed conflict in the period under review. The types of armed conflict reported are:

- Communal conflict in Plateau and Adamawa States,
- Pastoral/Farmer conflict in Taraba State,
- Electoral conflict in Borno State
- Ethnic Conflict in Delta

Resource-based conflict, ethno-religious conflicts, and recently pastoral/farmers’ conflicts have risen in scale and dimension especially in Nigeria over the past 10 years. Communities and States that used to be regarded as peaceful areas have increasingly become hotspots of violent conflict with the attendant national debate on state, human and food security as well as citizenship and rights in the country.

The reported conflicts opened up discourse on the issue of lack of credible conflict resolution structures at the community and state levels to handle dispute before conflict degenerates to violence and/or handle the post crisis stage to prevent re-escalation.

Scenes from Jos Crisis in March 2010

The mismanagement of each post conflict period has been reported as the launch pad for the fresh/reprisal conflict. Each crisis deepens animosity and broadens the scope and dimension of the next crisis.

The socio-economic impact of such conflicts on the states and Nigeria can never be over emphasised. The state, human and food security have been threatened by the various dimensions of armed conflict witnessed in the identified states. Precious periods in the farming season lost during these crises can never be reversed and it is felt by the polity in the reduction of food output especially vegetables from Plateau and Taraba States.

The issue of bad management of the needs of the affected population, internally displaced persons, people who lost their livelihood and breadwinners etc. at the post crisis period is also of great concern as this continues to deepen the animosity of the parties and brings in different dimensions to the conflict.

Another factor is the threat posed by IDPs in host states such as Bauchi. Their presence has raised various levels of concern by the State government including the contentious extraction of non indigenes from the State.

Also, there is threat to inter-state relationship between Plateau state and other states that evacuated their indigenes from Jos during previous conflicts and those that believe their indigenes were unduly affected. The fear of reprisal attacks in other states to retaliate the death of their indigenes cannot be totally ruled.

The dimension of ethnicity crisis in the Niger delta region is also alarming especially as it is still tied to the issue of conflict over natural resources. The growing population and the low-level of development in the region contributed to violent competition for resources and ethnic rivalry.